



*Cherokee Watershed stakeholders tour candidate  
water quality monitoring sites on Cottonwood Creek.*

**Award Amount**  
\$93,815

**Watershed**  
Cherokee Watershed

**County**  
Butte County

**CALFED Region**  
Sacramento Valley Region

**Legislative Districts**  
US Congress: 2 and 4  
State Assembly: 2 and 3  
State Senate: 4

## **Purpose**

To build a formal, broad-based collaborative stakeholder watershed organization to address severe flooding, sedimentation, and heavy metal contamination issues in the Cherokee Watershed.

## **Project Goals**

- Perform watershed assessments and ongoing monitoring.
- Develop a watershed plan.
- Implement stewardship activities.

## **Benefits to the CALFED Program**

*The Cherokee watershed is a part of the Ecosystem Restoration Program's (ERP's) Butte Basin Ecological Management Zone. It contributes to the waterfowl-friendly marshes of the Butte Sink and has been identified as a recharge zone for the Butte Basin Aquifer. This project is raising citizen awareness about the importance of overall watershed health and restoration. It synthesizes watershed data in a usable format and collects important new data through citizen monitoring efforts. Once this is completed, the Cherokee Coordinated Resource Management and Planning Group will pursue the next steps to complete the assessment and planning and begin implementation and restoration activities.*

## Project Overview

This project is the result of meetings held by an informal watershed group initiated in September 2000 by the Cherokee Coordinated Resource Management and Planning Group (CRMP). These meetings focused on scoping watershed issues and increasing citizen awareness and understanding of priority issues such as flood control, non-point source pollution, and endangered species. This informal watershed group developed a plan to build a sustainable, broad-based, collaborative stakeholder watershed group to perform assessments and ongoing monitoring, develop a watershed plan, and implement stewardship activities in the Cherokee Watershed.

Keystones of this 21-month capacity-building project are to hold community watershed meetings, develop a Citizen Monitoring Initiative, and conduct field tours. This project funds a half-time Watershed Coordinator to synthesize existing data sets, coordinate events and citizen monitoring, facilitate meetings, manage logistics, and conduct outreach activities.

Watershed meetings focus on raising awareness in the community, promoting communication, and getting organized. Participants are gaining a greater understanding of watershed problems and are working toward solutions in the watershed. They are also helping craft a formal collaborative organization to maintain and improve the watershed and working with the State Water Resources Control Board Clean Water Team to ensure appropriate sampling and monitoring protocols for water quality data.

Concurrent with this effort, the group is working to compile existing scientific studies and data for the watershed into a summary document that identifies additional data needs and serves as a reference for public discussions and individual landowner decisions about the watershed.



*View upstream from a water quality monitoring station on Dry Creek.*

## Contact Information

Gary Cole  
Cherokee Coordinated Resource Management and Planning Group  
7399 Highway 99  
Oroville, CA 95965  
Telephone: (530) 343-0916  
E-mail: [cofarm@shocking.com](mailto:cofarm@shocking.com)